

[illegible]

RD _____
DRD _____
ABA _____
AFF _____
ARW _____

PA _____
AIR _____
Colo _____
File 3E
Action _____
CL 8-111

Proy. 87

Dear 'Mr. Spear:

These minutes were reviewed by those in attendance. The team believes these recommendations are the next logical steps to further recovery goals.

If I or any team member can be of further assistance to you or your staff, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Richard Remington
Richard Remington, Team Leader
Sonoran Pronghorn Antelope
Recovery Team
3005 Pacific Avenue
Yuma, Az. 85365
(602) 344-3436

RR: jj

FWS REG 2
FWS 61 YD1

APR 12 '87

SE;

DISTRIBUTION LIST

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>AFFILIATION</u>
Richard Remington	3005 Pacific Ave. Yuma, Az. 85365	Recovery Team Leader (Regional Game Specialist, AG&F)
Jim de Vos	2222 W. Greenway Rd. Phoenix, Az. 85023	Az. Game & Fish Dept.
Steve VanRiper	1611 N. 2nd Ave. Ajo, Az. 85321	USFWS-Cabeza Prieta NWR
Michele Monroe	832 CSG/DEEV	U.S. Air Force
Jennifer Fowler- Propst	USFWS P.O.BOX 1306 Albuquerque, NM	USFWS-Refuges and Wildlife
Bill Micus	Organ Pipe NWR RT.1 Box 100 Ajo, Az. 85231	National Park Service
Russell A. Haughey	832 CSG/DEEV Luke Air Forco Base	U.S. Air Force

MINUTES

JULY 31, 1987

Sonoran Pronghorn Antelope Recovery Team Meeting

The July 31, 1987 meeting of the Sonoran Pronghorn Antelope Recovery Team was called to order at 10:00 A.M. at Luke Air Force Base Arizona (attendance roster attached).

This meeting of the recovery team was called to discuss three items. These topics are (1) Update team members on Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge, Pronghorn study team report (2) Proposal for continuation on studies of the Sonoran Pronghorn Antelope status in Arizona (3) Proposal for additional team members of the Sonoran Pronghorn Antelope Recovery Team. Specific discussions of each agenda item follows.

(1). A short presentation was made by myself to other team members discussing the antelope study team for the Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge. The role of the study team was discussed as well as the finding of the team. The final report was given to team members for their review and records. Current Sonoran Pronghorn Antelope numbers are below 100 in Mexico and may well be below 50 individuals (S.A. Valenzuela, 1986, current status of the Pronghorn (Antilocapra Americana) in Mexico: (A survey). The recovery team believes that future transplants of this unique pronghorn will be necessary not only to meet recovery needs but to keep Sonoran Pronghorn Antelope in Mexico extant. The recovery team does appreciate the efforts of the Fish and Wildlife Service in exploring the possibilities of breeding a releasible number of Sonoran Pronghorn on the Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge.

(2). Mr. Jim de Vos was asked to the meeting to bring team members up to date on funding and plans of future studies of the Sonoran Pronghorn Antelope. From the studies proposed in the minutes of the last recovery team meeting January 15, 1987, two studies could be performed and pertinent data gathered. Mr. de Vos, however stated that a Neo-Natal fawn study which was proposed would cost a minimum of \$100,000 annually for approximately three years. The major cost arising is in personnel and equipment necessary to monitor gravid females and subsequent fawns very extensively. Currently cost and field logistics are too prohibitive to undertake such a study.

Additional proposed investigations could be performed without such massive costs. Mr. de Vos informed the team he has secured \$8580.00 from "The One-Shot Antelope Hunt Foundation". Funding has also been secured from the Arizona Game and Fish Department for limited personnel costs and employee related expenses if a Sonoran Pronghorn study is re-initiated. Funding currently secured will allow the acquisition of 10 telemetry collars, flight time to permit capturing and recollaring of 10 Pronghorn and 20 relocation flights. Monies now available would not provide any on the ground field work. Mr. de Vos has prepared a request for additional funds from several agencies which will allow for study efforts on the ground. With funding secured only from the Arizona Game and Fish Department and private sportman, funds for additional concepts of the study will or have been solicited from Luke Air Force Base, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Refuges and Endangered Species and also the National Parks service. In addition to secured funds the study requires an additional \$19,650 to put personnel in the field. In addition to radio telemetry, field studies would include forage collections for laboratory analysis, predator investigations and further investigations of the use of free water by Sonoran Pronghorn.

Forage analysis would consist of collecting seasonal food items of Sonoran Pronghorn and determine physical parameters (protein content etc.). Such investigations could determine if forage quality seasonally may be a limited factor in Sonoran Pronghorn Antelope numbers.

Predator investigations would include coordinating and conducting range wide coyote scat transects. Scat numbers would be used to determine a relative abundance of coyote throughout habitat types as well as compared to other areas within Southwest Arizona. Coyote scat would also be analysed for evidence of antelope predator. Additionally a number of coyote would be collected primarily during and within fawning periods and habitat for stomach content analysis. It would be possible to radio collar a number of coyote to empirically determine home range, size and seasonal use areas.

Finally investigations of water use would consist of ground monitoring during drought months to document use of free water and attempt to document visitations.

Considerable discussion occurred throughout all study aspects. It was apparent that most study team members were extremely interested in water use and whether it could be

determined if construction of new water sources is indeed beneficial. Discussion of 24 hour remote camera monitoring systems were discussed. Interest of continuing study efforts was high within the team.

It is the recommendation of the Recovery team that special use permits be issued to the Arizona Game and Fish Department for the capture and subsequent radio collaring and relocations of up to 10 Sonoran Pronghorn by the Fish and Wildlife Service upon receipt of the study proposal. The team believes that these special use permits can be issued based upon consultation and results of the initial 1983 Sonoran Pronghorn capture. The recovery team is hopeful that additional funding can be obtained by the study team to conduct field studies on predators and the forage base.

(3.) A short discussion was held on team membership. The team was unanimous in the opinion that membership from the Bureau of Land Management be solicited. The team suggests that the Regional Director contact the Bureau of Land Management and request such membership. Our suggestion for a member from the BLM would be Mark Fredlake, Lower Gila Resource Area biologist Phoenix District BLM. Mr. Fredlake would make a willing member and positive addition to the team. His current area of responsibility includes Sonoran Antelope habitat within the Ajo area and his knowledge of the antelope and habitat requirements is good.

Additionally, the team suggests that a member from the Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge be appointed to the team subsequent to the resignation of Ms. Linda Hagen. The team will support the recommendation from the Refuge and Regional Director.

It was also brought out that Luke Air Force Base will request the replacement of their current team member 2nd Lt. Michele Monroe with a new civilian employee Mr. Russell A. Haughey. The team would support the recommendation by Luke Air Force Base and the Regional director.

This meeting was adjourned at 12:30 PM on July 31, 1987. There was no subsequent meeting date or future agenda items proposed at the conclusion of the meeting. It is our recommendation however that subsequent to reinitiating the status of Sonoran Pronghorn study that the team meet again to discuss final arrangements and details of the study with Mr. DeVos.

Minutes taken and submitted by Richard Remington team leader
Sonoran Pronghorn Antelope Recovery Team.